

The British Museum – January 31, 2018 – London, England

By Tom Allin

We have been fortunate to visit many of the world's best museums. Art museums are my favorite but there is no better and more interesting museum than The British Museum!

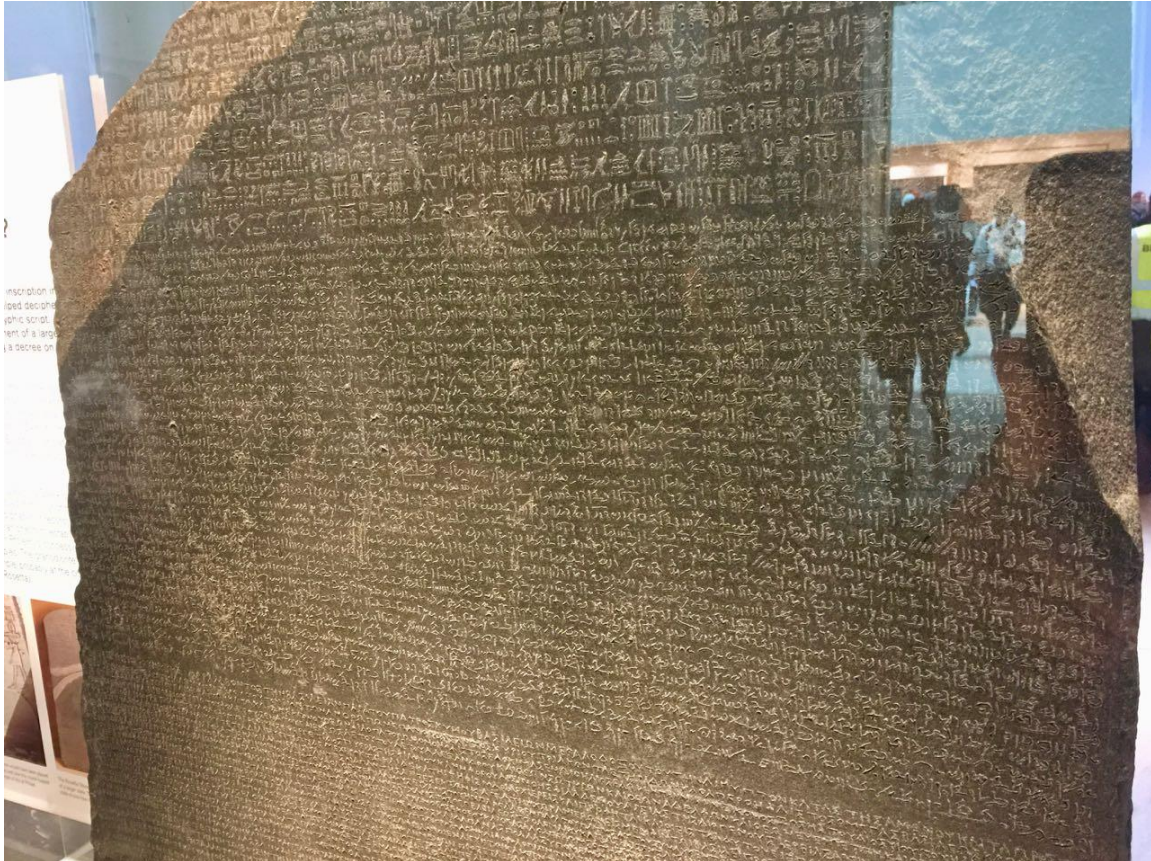
Before we left for London I put together a list of London places to visit and how long I thought we would need to see each place. I wrote down two days for The British Museum – not even close. We have made two visits to the Museum. One for about five hours and the second for about six hours. My guess is another 40 hours and I will begin to believe we have seen a lot of the British Museum.



The architect Norman Foster designed the glass and steel roof design for the Great Court. It is stunning.



One of the few items I remember from my visit to the British Museum 40 years ago is the Rosetta Stone. I have been fascinated by this once in a lifetime find since learning about it in high school. This stone unlocked so much of what we know about the 8,000 year old Egyptian culture. This stone is one of those items I will always remember.



The top is Egyptian hieroglyphics. This is not a pictorial language but is a phonetic language. The second language is the language used by everyday Egyptians. The third is (ancient) Greek.

Next we explored the large Egyptian artifacts. The mummies, etc. are on the second floor and we have yet to make it there. Again, one of those things I don't believe I understood in high school and is that many of these artifacts were painted. The temples, homes, palaces must have been gorgeous.



I wonder what colors are missing?

“The statue originally represented Amenhotep III, but a century later the facial features were partly reworked for Ramesses II to resemble his own official ‘portrait’.” The columns in the background give you some idea of how large this stone sculpture is but the second photo makes it easy to determine just how large it is.



I think I could take him even with the difference in size. I am so small he probably couldn't find me. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." is my motto. Quote from the best boxer in my time: Muhammad Ali.



Don't worry I haven't decided to dress more formally. We have theater tickets for later in the evening. By the way Rick, thanks for loaning me your rain jacket.

The next room we entered was about 50 to 60 feet in length with sandstone reliefs on both walls. I have never seen anything like this! I would like to return and take a guided tour of these reliefs. Each section is well documented by signs but I am sure there is so much more to know. The figure below is the Assyrian King Ashurbanipal and these reliefs date to about 640 BC.



The details were fantastic. Have a look at the king's ear and earring.



This relief has the king on a chariot with a bow and arrow in hands.

There are two of these human-headed winged bull figures (second is on the right side of the photograph) and they made up the sides of a gate leading to the citadel.



These figures came from Khorsabad, The Palace of Sargon.

Wandered back into the large Egyptian artifact gallery.

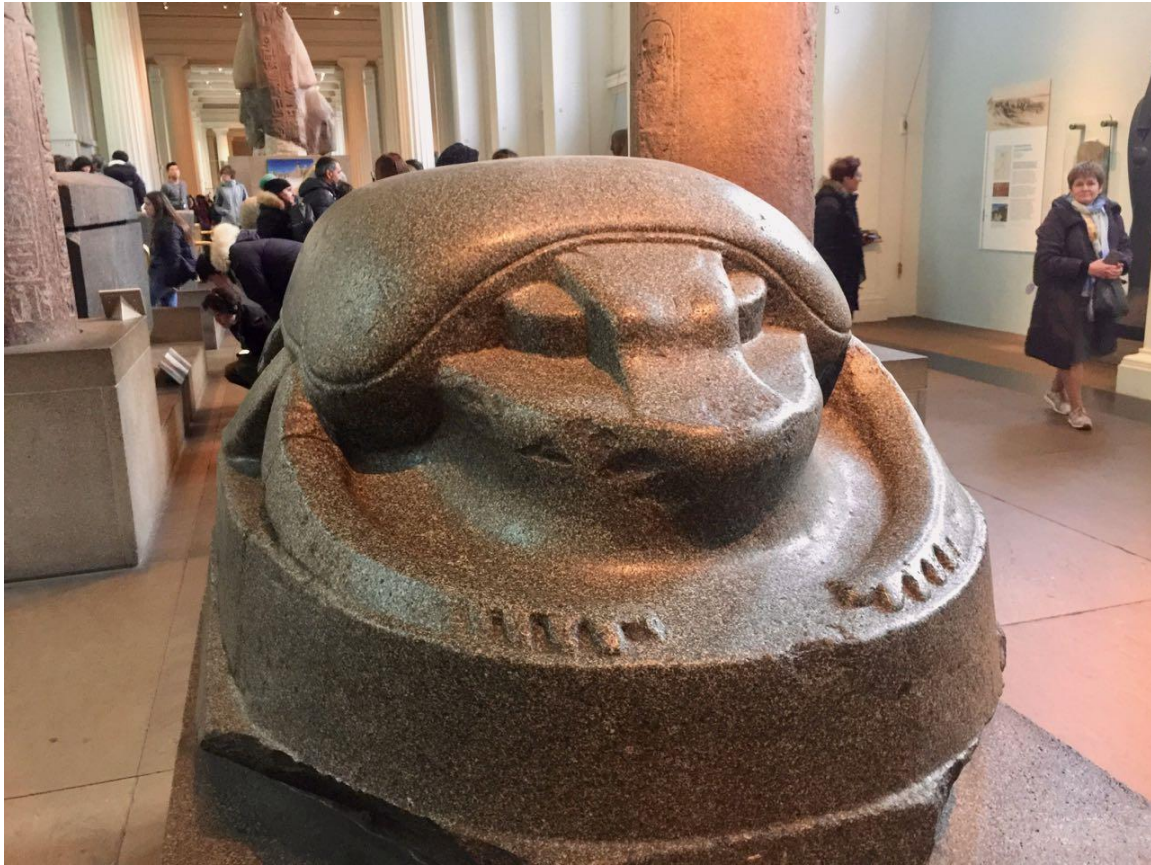


For the cat lovers who read my blog. Does anyone who has had a cat as a pet think there is any possibility of inserting a ring through its nose without losing a dangerous amount of your own blood?



This is identified as the Gayer-Anerson Cat for the man who owned it and donated it. It's a bronze cat with silver plaque and gold nose ring. It has been dated to around 600 BC.

For all you etymologists: a colossal scarab beetle. The scarab represents Khepri, the form assumed by the sun-god at dawn. The Egyptians noticed that scarabs hatch from buried dung balls as if by self-creation. The sun-god was also believed to be self-creating renewing his power each night before his rebirth at daybreak.



For the Key family members, do you think Mama Rae saw this before creating her sculpture of *Daddy on a Seahorse*?



This vase is *Eros Riding a Goose*.

It doesn't take long to figure out why there are tomb raiders. I bet this bauble would fetch a great price on the black market.



The earrings and the necklace are from about 300 BC.

I think a little bling-bling like the necklace would make me look good.